working of the board. The board has been ordered to meet regularly every week so that recruitment might be made with the least possible delay after a vacancy has arisen. All evidence goes to show that the policy followed by this Government in the matter of recruitment to public services has brought about harmony amongst the various communities in the State.

THE WAR

15. While we are meeting here in an atmosphere of peaceful calm we should not forget the terrible human tragedy that is being enacted in other parts of the world. The intensity of the tragedy is on a scale beyond the wildest imagination of either primitive or modern man. Whereas even in the most fearful wars of the past the issues at stake were fought on the battlefields while the civilian population pursued its peaceful and normal activities, all difference between combatant and non-combatant has ceased to exist in the present-day world conflict. It is not in terms of the massacre that takes place in a battle-field that the extent of human suffering is to be judged, but from the untold misery to which peaceful civilian population is subjected. It is not necessary for me on this occasion to go into either the historical or the moral issues involved in this war of aggression started by a band of ruthless dictators. I shall rest content with drawing your attention to some of the implications of this war so far as our country is concerned. There are those who think that "it is an illusion to talk of preparing India for self-defence," and that "no power has eyes on India excpet as a British possession." This view implies that if India were not a part of the British commonwealth she would have nothing to fear from the aggression of the dictators. Those who cling to this belief do not seem to have realised the significance of what has been going on in the world for the last nine months. Are Holland, Denmark, Norway, and Belgium British possessions? Or were they on the side of Britain in this war? In spite of the most scrupulous neutrality of these countries they have not been spared from the brutal assault of the aggressors. Whether India will be an object of attack by the dictators will depend on the value that the dictators attach to India in their scheme of world-domination, and not on the fact whether India is a British possession or an independent country. Let there be no mistake about this. It is because of my reading of history in this manner that I ventured to observe on another occasion that India should look upon this war as its own war as much as the war of

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Britain. Fortunately for us in this small State, there is perfect unanimity amongst all sections of the people as to what should be our duty in this grave hour of crisis. The splendid response made by representative leaders at the recent war meeting has demonstrated beyond doubt the attitude of the people of this State.

16. I hope that, as a result of the efforts of the War Committee that has been set up, the maximum possible help will be given by the Government and the people of this State. I would ask honourable members to realise the striking contrast between the state of affairs today in this small State and the state of affairs that prevails in many countries of the world. While most of the governments of the world, including the Government of India, are faced with the problems of deficit budgets and crushing additional taxation, we in this small State are actually enjoying the luxury of a surplus budget without a single pie of additional taxation. Let us not forget that this is entirely due to the fact that we do not stand as an isolated unit in the world but as the component part of a mighty commonwealth of nations. At least as a measure of gratitude for the immunity that we thus enjoy, let us give cheerfully and liberally for the cause which is as much ours as it is Britain's. This is not the time for indulging in constitutional disquisition or political recrimination. There is no reason either to doubt or despair about the future of our country. In the new-world-order that will emerge out of this turmoil, I can see clearly in my vision a free and self-governing Dominion of India. Let us shoulder the mighty task that lies ahead of us in that hope and faith, and let us not be daunted by any fears or doubts. "If hopes are dupes, then fears may be liars."

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN—ANNOUNCEMENT OF

Mr. President: I have to announce to the House that I have nominated Mr. T. P. Poulose and Mr. P. Govinda Menon to the Panel of Chairmen for this Session.

CONDOLENCE MOTIONS

***Dr. A. R. Menon** *(Minister for Rural Development):* Sir, I beg to move the following condolence motions.—

(1) *This House places on record its deep sense of sorrow on the sudden and sad demise of Mr. K. P. Vallon, for a long time a non-official member of this House.*

*Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member.